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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-11 UPW-01
RSR-01 /086 W

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R 241122Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9096
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DA NANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SAIGON 13597

CINCPAC FOR POLAD.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dean Syder DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

SUBJECT: MOI COMMENTS ON GENERAL MINH'S CHARGES OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

REF: SAIOOM 13462

1. ACTING MINISTER OF INTERIOR, LE CONG CHAT, DELIVERED TELEVISED ADDRESS EVENING AUGUST 23 COMMENTING IN DETAIL ON SOME OF GENERAL MINH'S CHARGES OF ELECTORAL FRAUD AUGUST 19 (REFTEL), PARTICULARLY DISTRIBUTION OF VOTING CARDS AND LOCATION OF BOOTHS. CHAT EMPHASIZED NUMEROUS LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS PROTECTING HONESTY OF LH AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

2. CHAT ACKNOWLEDGED SOME "SHORTCOMINGS" IN THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS BUT DEFENDED THEM AS "MINOR AND ISOLATED" IN CONTEXT OF MAGNITUDE OF TASK AND CHARGED "THAT MALICIOUS INDIVIDUALS HAD DELIBERATELY EXAGGERATED" THE INCIDENTS "IN ORDER TO SLANDER THE GOVERNMENT."

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3. CHAT'S PRESENTATION CAME IN THE WAKE OF GENERAL MINH'S AND VICE PRESIDENT KY'S WITHDRAWAL OF C NDIDACY, YET HE POINTEDLY DISCUSSED CONDUCT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AS WELL AS THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS.

4. FULL VIETNAMESE TEXT OF CHAT'S REMARKS PLUS EXTENSIVE SUMMARY IN TRANSLATION POUCHED AUGUST 24.
BUNKER